

31st Fighter Wing: The U.S. Air Force's fighter wing south of the Alps

THE VIGILEER

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June 9, 2006

Aviano Air Base, Italy

Fly Bys

Pharmacy move

The Aviano pharmacy is moving June 16 to 18. The pharmacy will close at 2 p.m. June 16 and will resume normal hours at 7:30 a.m. June 19. Customers may experience long wait times June 16 because of the move. The pharmacy staff is asking customers to plan ahead by requesting and picking up refills prior to June 15. For emergency refills, the Sacile pharmacy will be open until 4:30 p.m. June 16. For more information, call Ext. 5000.

Firearm rules

It is illegal for American citizens to possess a firearm in Italy. The local household goods carriers are not permitted to pack or move firearms, therefore TMO cannot establish the shipment without local law enforcement's coordination. Ignoring this prohibition can cause serious legal problems such as weapon confiscation, being arrested by local authorities or required to go to Italian court, fines and or imprisonment.

For issues concerning firearms, contact the Armory at Ext. 7421 immediately.

Scorpions deploy, visit family

By Senior Airman Sarah Gregory
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Camouflage covered tents, field equipment, Humvees and a bouncy castle. Which of these items is out of place in a deployed environment? For the 603rd Air Control Squadron, none of them are.

Half-way through their eight day deployment training exercise in Maniago, more than 120 Scorpions received a visit from family members Saturday.

"The family day is to show our families what their military member does [during a deployment] in hopes that it might ease some anxieties," said Lt. Col. Jennifer Spears, 603rd ACS commander. "So far, the response from the families has been outstanding."

Family members were treated to a barbecue, a tour around the deployment site and of course, time to spend with loved ones.

"I think it's important that we do events like this because our spouses are away from us so much and it gives kids a chance to see what their parents do," said Tech. Sgt. Juanita Remington, 31st Security Forces Squadron and wife of 603rd ACS' Staff Sgt. Shawn Remington. "It gives everyone time to come out and meet other people and see what everyone does. It's a camaraderie thing."

The family day gave the 603rd ACS members a break from the rigorous schedule they had been keeping. The training exercise, known as Scorpion Strike simulates what the Scorpions would be doing during a real-world deployment.

"What we are attempting to do is take a radar image from the main compound and



Photo by Senior Airman Sarah Gregory

Senior Airman Kelly Burke, left, 603rd Air Control Squadron data systems technician and Staff Sgt. Jennifer Thompson, 603rd ACS air surveillance technician, go over notes during their deployment.

send it via satellite to the deployed location," said Maj. Randall Morris, 603rd ACS director of operations. "This is actually the first time we are doing the deployed radar concept. [Deployed units are] sending the image to us and we are controlling the aircraft using that re-

See Strike, Page 5

Safety call: A 31st Fighter Wing safety call and combat fun run is at 6:45 a.m. June 30 at the Dragon Fitness Center.

31st FW Sortie Board

sortie: n, a flight of a combat aircraft on a mission

	Hours	Sorties
31st FW goal	1107	723
	-24.4	-8

Information current as of Thursday.



Naples

Dusty, dirty, a little crowded, and rich with history, the two faces of Naples offer visitors a unique city to explore.

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Sports Day

Local nationals and base community came together for a weekend of sports, fitness and food at the Fontanafredda Sport's Day.

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31st Fighter Wing

Commander's Corner

By Brig. Gen. Robert Yates
31st Fighter Wing Commander

Greeting to all World's Finest! This week has flown by even though it was jammed packed with activities ranging from promotions, changes of command and, of course, our most recent exercise. So fasten your seatbelts, Aviano, because this fast ride won't be over for a while... not until the summer changes of leadership are done and certainly not until we ace the next inspection.

But before I talk about anything else, I want to thank you all for making last week's exercises a success. It required a lot of hard work but once again you've demonstrated you're the best.

Now I want to recognize the newest commanders who have recently joined our ranch: Colonel Charles Webb, our new maintenance group commander; Lt. Col. Adriane Pone, our new 510th Fighter Squadron commander and Lt. Col. David Lynch, our new commander of the 31st Security Forces Squadron. Upcoming changes of command will show new leadership in the 603rd Air Control Squadron as Lt. Col. Jennifer Spears hands over command to Lt. Col. Troy Jackson and Lt. Col. Billie Early will soon assume command from Col. John Jordan, commander of the 31st Communication Squadron.

To our incoming commanders, we extend a hearty welcome to you and your families. I'm sure you'll find the ranch a busy and wonderful place to work. And you certainly can't beat the view!

To our outgoing commanders, thank you for your dedication during your tenure here. You've been an integral part of making this the "World's Finest" wing and I know you'll do great things in your future endeavors.

Speaking of outgoing personnel, I'd like to take this time to say farewell to someone who has been an inspiration to a lot of people throughout the wing. Chaplain (Col.) Jerry Houge, our wing chaplain, and his wife Rebecca, have been an important part of Aviano for

the past two years. As they head to the sunny coast of Florida, I want to say, "Grazie Mille Padre!"

During Chaplain Houge's final radio show on Tuesday, he said something that has stuck with me: "While we are working 12, 14, sometimes 16 hours a day ... we need to make sure we take the time to get out and experience Italy." He is absolutely right! We work hard here at the ranch, and we've worked especially hard this week during our exercise. I encourage everyone to make sure they take the time to get out and participate in as many cultural events as possible.

There are festivals every weekend, and many are right here in our own back yards. For example, this weekend in Fontanafredda is the "Flavors of the Water" festival. The festival offers food, musical shows, children's games, regional folklore performances and more from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday and again from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday near the town center. For more information, call Wing Public Affairs.

The following weekend there will be a jazz festival in Sesto al Reghena. The jazzfest starts at 9 p.m. and takes place June 15, 16 and 18. Each night spotlights different jazz performers and this all takes place in the downtown area of Sesto al Reghena. Sesto al Reghena is south of Pordenone on A28, approximately 40 miles from Aviano. Tis' the season for all sorts of Festivals... I know we've got a heavy load here at Aviano – work hard when you need to and make the time to relax and explore when you can. As Chaplain Houge said, before you know it, you'll have your orders in hand – and you won't want to be wondering where the time went.

Have a great weekend, stay safe, have a plan and always take care of each other so we can all be back to work safe and sound on Monday!



Commander's Connection

Q: If you live in Government Rental Housing Program homes, who is responsible for tracking pets? If it's mandatory to have your pet microchipped here, then why aren't GRHP residents being told to do this? We have a neighbor that has had four dogs at different times within the last year. Each time the dog has disappeared. We think each of them have never been microchipped or registered on base.

A: Pet abandonment is an issue I take very seriously. Wing policy, which is briefed during Right Start, requires all military and civilian members to register their pets with the base veterinarian clinic and to

microchip all cats, dogs and ferrets.

When someone reports animal abuse to the base veterinary clinic, the complaint is forwarded to the member's supervisor. If necessary, base leadership will take appropriate action against those individuals failing to adhere to the instruction and the law.

I urge everyone to take care of their pets. If your pets aren't microchipped, please contact our vet office at Ext. 8485 to have this procedure completed.

To submit a question to the Commander's Connection, e-mail cc.connect@aviano.af.mil. It is recommended that members contact the appropriate agency or go through their chain of command before using the Commander's Connection.

Program helps couples when they are hearts apart

By Senior Airman Colleen Wronek
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

When written words aren't enough, Aviano's Family Support Center can help you be with your loved one while they are away.

Through its Hearts Apart program, the family support center offers webcams, video telephones and the ability to record messages to send to deployed loved ones.

"Our services are available for dependents or military who are separated from their loved ones," said Tech. Sgt. Christopher Ford, 31st Mission Support Squadron family readiness coordinator. "It's free and there are no time limits unless there are people waiting."

Sergeant Ford said the family support center usually doesn't have a line for its Hearts Apart program. But when there are people waiting, the family support center has a 30-minute time limit.

The family support center has about nine webcams available for use. Sergeant Ford said the webcam works like a personal webcam people may have at home.

"The webcams don't have microphones connected to them,"

he said. "But as long as the other person has a webcam, you can see each other as you instant message."

For those who want to hear and see their loved one, the family support center has video phones. "The video phones can be used if the person on the other end has video teleconference capabilities," Sergeant Ford said. "If the person doesn't have VTC capability, the videophones can be used as a regular phone."

Some people may be separated from a loved one who doesn't have phone or computer access. To help those people, the family support center offers a way to send video. People can digitally record a message or a special event and mail it to their loved one. The family support center supplies all the materials needed to create the DVD as well as a mailing package free.

"Some people use our DVD capabilities before deploying to record storybook readings for their children," Sergeant Ford said. "And some parents pick their kids up from school to use our Hearts Apart services," Sergeant Ford said.

People are asked to sign in before they use Hearts Apart services, which are located in the family support center computer resource room.

For more information on the Hearts Apart program or other family support center services, call Ext. 5407.

Separating? The mandatory pre-separation briefing is at 9 a.m., Fridays at the family support center. For more info, call Ext. 5407.

Strike, from page 1

was in November 2004, just before the squadron geared up for deployments, the unit now has a goal of conducting the deployment training quarterly.

"We have different ways we can deploy so we try to learn different methods of troubleshooting," said Colonel Spears. "We tailored this one to simulate a deployed radar site and a main site where command and control takes place."

The radar images can be used for a variety of purposes.

"Our radar images can provide early warning and surveillance capability," said Capt. Scott Ponsor, SR director. "With these images, we can conduct air-refueling and combat support and make sure aircraft are all in the appropriate places. We also help deconflict civilian air traffic by telling pilots which areas to avoid flying over, keeping them safe."

The 603rd is made up of 26 different Air Force careers including communications, heating, ventilation and air conditioning technicians and security forces.

"It's an organic unit that can deploy equipment anywhere in the world without site support," said Captain Ponsor. "We can make the initial push and support ourselves for up to 14 days."

In order to be self sufficient dur-



Photo by Senior Airman Sarah Gregory

With receivers like these, the 603rd Air Control Squadron can receive radar images at a deployed location.

ing the deployment exercise, an advanced echelon team was sent in first to clear the area.

"The advanced team, consisting of security forces, does 'a sweep of the area to simulate that we haven't been here before,'" Captain Ponsor said. There might be simulated UXOs in the theater so they'll have to respond to those. Once the team secures the site, they set up a lot of our high-powered equipment, which needs to be grounded. The team also sets up tents and marks the area for other tents and field equipment."

So what does all this mean? Although there was a bouncy castle on site, when it comes to deployment training, the 603rd ACS Scorpions aren't playing around.

Additional officer voluntary retirements

The Air Force is offering additional voluntary retirements to a select group of officers, officials announced June 2.

As a result of the Fiscal 2006 National Defense Authorization Act, the Force Shaping Program Phase II additional measures offer voluntary retirements to officers with at least eight years Total Active Federal Commissioned Service and 20 years Total Active Federal Military Service.

The Air Force will waive active duty service commitments (except Aviation Continuation Pay, Judge Advocate Continuation Pay and Critical Skills Retention Bonus) and allow officers meeting these criteria to apply for voluntary retirement on Sept. 1, 2006, or earlier.

Lieutenant colonels and colonels who are retirement eligible are encouraged to apply for retirement between now and Sept. 1, 2007.

Some force shaping initiatives are still offered such as the "Blue to Green" option for officers and the waiver for lieutenant colonels and colonels to retire with two years time in grade through 2007. The Air Force is also authorizing a temporary program to allow officers to establish a voluntary retirement date up to 15 months in advance.

If not enough volunteers elect to retire under this force shaping initiative, a Selective Early Retirement Board could convene in 2007. (*Air Force Print News*)

Aviano JROTC founder honored at ceremony

By Dominique Dacanay

Aviano High School student

On May 31, Aviano High School faculty, students, and an Air Force JROTC unit honored Chief Master Sgt. David Slater who passed away in 2001. Chief Slater was a key individual responsible for the establishment of the Air Force JROTC program in 1995 at Aviano High School.

Mrs. Yvette Slater, Chief Slater's wife of 43 years, attended the ceremony after traveling from Tours, France. At the end of the ceremony, she along with Retired Col. Joseph Sansone, Aviano Air Force ROTC officer in charge, unveiled a dedication plaque at the base of the school flag pole.

Inscribed on the plaque is, "In memory of CMSgt David C. Slater, whose understanding, leadership, and love of teaching, inspired his cadets to strive for excellence."

During the ceremony, Colonel Sansone spoke highly of Chief Slater. "I worked along side the Chief for three and-a-half years as a JROTC instructor here," he said. "During that time, I was impressed by his in-depth knowledge of the program, but more than that, his sincere concern and love for his cadets."

"He was very dedicated and most proud of the letters he would often receive from former cadets that thanked



Courtesy photo

Yvette Slater, wife of the late Chief Master Sgt. David Slater, and Retired Col. Joseph Sansone, Air Force ROTC officer in charge, read a plaque honoring Chief Slater. Chief Slater helped establish the JROTC program here.

him for his support and the positive impact he had on their lives. I believe that he is still feeling pretty good

knowing that a small part of him is still living in those cadets he mentored and trained."

The corps awards the Chief Slater Leadership Award to first year cadets who demonstrate outstanding leadership, potential, and have significant contributions within the corps. This year's candidate, Cadet Staff Sgt. Dustin Newman, was recognized at the 11th Annual Awards Banquet.

Chief Slater began his military career, in 1955, at Sampson Air Force Base, N.Y., and went on to California for air police technical training. From there, he was sent to Chateauroux, France, as an air policeman. In 1958, he met and married Yvette in France.

Afterwards, he went to Stony Brook Air Station, Mass., as a nuclear security team member. In 1960, Chief Slater went to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, as a general's enlisted assistant.

From 1969 through 1970, he served in the South Vietnamese capital of Saigon where he worked as a North Vietnamese prisoner interrogator for Air Force Intelligence.

After 26 years of service, he retired from the Air Force.

He joined DoDDs in 1988, teaching Air Force JROTC at Ramstein High School in Germany. In 1995, he left Germany and came here to help establish the JROTC unit.

Retiree office: The activities office is open from 7:30 to 10 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Family Support Center.

31st LRS offers PCS tips for a smooth transition

Courtesy of 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron

Many Aviano families will be moving this summer. One of the most important aspects of changing stations is ensuring people obtain proper travel arrangements.

To avoid getting left behind, people should submit a request and receive a port call about 45 days before their travel date. Port call dates are provided by the Military Personnel Flight in coordination with the Traffic Management Office passenger travel section. The port call request is provided during the outbound assignment briefing and needs to be completed and returned to the MPF. Once the port call date is received, the next step is to finalize travel arrangements to the new duty station.

When considering travel arrangements, people should consider whether or not they want to take leave. Those who choose to take leave in conjunction with their PCS will need to procure transportation from the port of debarkation or first international airport in the United States, to the leave destination.

Air Force policy prohibits the use of government fares to travel to or from leave locations. Members have the option to

procure tickets from POD to the leave location and to the new duty station. However, the reimbursement for travel is limited to what the government would have paid from the POD directly to the new duty station.

Besides leave, people with pets should consider their animals' travel arrangements.

The passenger travel section will assist people in booking their pet on Air Mobility Command flights, but "pet slot" availability is very limited. If there are no pet slots available through AMC, passenger travel will help coordinate with the Commercial Travel Office in completing pet travel arrangements. Factors such as space availability, weather conditions and compliance with Airline regulations concerning kennel dimensions are beyond passenger travel office control.

Any pet that weighs more than 150 pounds with a kennel cannot fit in a passenger aircraft. If the airline refuses to book a pet, people will need to find another way to move their animal. The airline is the final authority in matters concerning pet travel.

For more information on travel arrangements, call Ext. 5646.

Fundraising rules, restrictions explained

By 1st Lt. Tyson Kindness
31st Fighter Wing legal office

Few things in the Air Force seem to cause as much confusion and frustration as fundraisers.

What should normally be a very simple operation can often turn into a nightmare of epic proportions.

The first step to fundraising is getting permission.

On Aviano, authority to give permission for fundraisers has been delegated to the 31st Services Squadron commander. Application requests should be made through the private organizations monitor by e-mailing anna.jackson@aviano.af.mil.

Fundraiser requests should be submitted at least 30 days before the event is to occur. The requesting organization must register with services, identify who is requesting the event, state the place and time when the event is to be held and identify the items to be sold. The request must also include the name and phone number of the requesting organization's representative.

There are certain types of fundraisers that are unauthorized. Here is a non-exclusive list of what is not permitted: Fundraisers that sell alcohol; conduct



Photo by Airman 1st Class Nathan Doza

The Air Force has rules for different types of fundraising, including emergency aid relief.

games of chance, lotteries or other gambling type activities (raffles are a possible exception) or anything that would duplicate or compete with Army Air Force Exchange Services. Members also aren't allowed to solicit funds on base or participate in fundraisers while in uniform.

Fundraisers can only be conducted away from the workplace and off-duty. Soliciting or selling in the duty section is strictly prohibited. Doing so in lobbies, break rooms, or other common areas is permissible. Remember that you fundraise as part of a non-federal entity. As such, the U.S. Government can't contribute money, materials, or any other active support to your organization.

The Joint Ethics Regulation is very specific as to what constitutes misuse of government property. Thus, working on a fundraiser while on duty, using a copier at work to make fliers, and using government email to advertise a fundraiser are all misuses of government resources.

Raffles appear to be an easy and relatively profitable way to raise funds, however, there are a few notable restrictions before you begin. First, raffles can't violate existing Italian law. Second, only officially-recognized private organizations can conduct raffles on an occasional basis and the raffle must benefit the entire military community. Raffles to raise funds for purely social, recreational, or entertainment purposes are not permitted.

The final hurdle is that all requests to hold raffles must be reviewed and approved by the base legal office.

The bottom line is that fundraising is a tricky area. This article only serves as a 30,000 ft. flyby over the rules governing fundraisers in the Air Force.

If you're contemplating a fundraiser, you'll save yourself and your organization a lot of trouble by starting early and getting the required permission. By going through the correct channels, you can get your fundraiser approved and insulate your organization from any problems.

Stepping up: A promotion social for all new technical and master sergeants is at 4 p.m. June 16 at the La Bella Vista Club.

Wine shipping guidelines

Courtesy of 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron

Shipping wine to your next duty station? Did you hear you can ship wine and get reimbursed for it? If you answered yes to both questions, pay attention.

You can get reimbursed for a majority of the shipping cost, but as always, there are some details to keep in mind. The following items associated with shipping wine are not reimbursable:

- Insurance
- Any taxes, customs fees or related costs for the wine to enter the United States
- Any charges or fees to have the shipment transported from the entry point in the United States to the location of your choice.

Here are some answers to a few frequently asked questions.

Q. How much money will I get back?

A. The amount of reimbursement is calculated on a case by case basis, so every situation is slightly different. Reimbursement is calculated using the household goods rate from Aviano to the new assignment, and that usually covers 60 to 75 percent of expenses.

Q. How does TMO ship wine?

A. TMO does not handle the shipment of wine. This is

considered a personally procured move, so members will make all the arrangements. If there is weight left on your entitlement, you may file for reimbursement for expenses. A list of shipping companies is available at TMO.

Q. Where will they ship my wine?

A. The shipping company will ship to the international airport closest to the new duty station.

Q. Is shipping alcohol legal where I'm going, and how much can I ship?

A. Some states prohibit, or limit, the amount and type of alcohol a person can ship, so it is best to check the appropriate state alcohol import laws at <http://www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/state.htm>. Members can only be reimbursed for weight which does not exceed the basic weight entitlement.

Here are the basic steps to completing the process:

- Members pay for the shipping service up front.
- Once the weights of a shipments (Household goods and unaccompanied baggage) have been returned to TMO (about a week after the shipments are picked up) you can come to TMO and drop-off your receipts.
- After the reimbursement letter is completed by TMO, bring it to finance for final settlement.

For more information, call TMO customer service at Ext. 5933.

Pushin

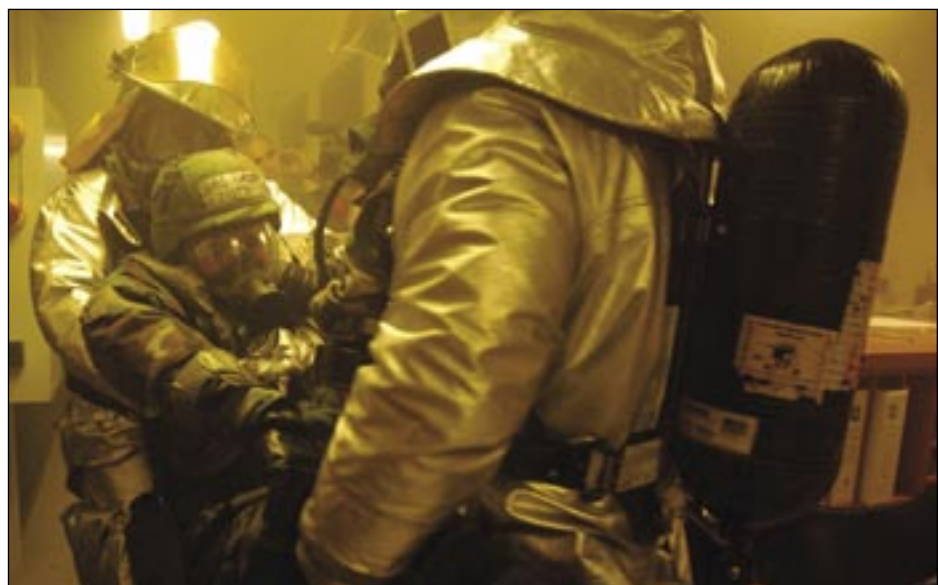
Aviano me

From Ability to Su
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'Finest' have been
two weeks. Here a
who kept the base
ground and air att



Photo by Airman 1st Class Nathan Doza

Above: Staff Sgt. Justin Surran, 31st Civil Engineer Squadron, explosives ordnance disposal technician, counters a 'suspicious package' call during a Local Salty Nation exercise here Tuesday. The EOD 8 heavy-duty Kevlar suit Sergeant Surran wears weighs 70 pounds and is used to protect explosive ordnance disposal troops.



Firefighters rescue Lt. Col. George Uribe, 555th Fighter Squadron director of operations. The Triple Nickel building simulatedly caught fire during the exercise.

ng the envelope: members test their warrior skills

survive and Operate training to Phase II exercises, 'The World's on their toes during the last are a few snapshots of those protected while experiencing attacks.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Holzworth

Left: Airman 1st Class Andrew Bugera, 31st Security Forces Squadron, secures a prisoner while Tech. Sgt. Steven Hasselstrom, 31st SFS, stands guard.

Right: 31st Communications Squadron Post Attack Response team member Senior Airman Craig Smith checks M-8 paper after an attack.



Photo by Airman Liliana Moreno

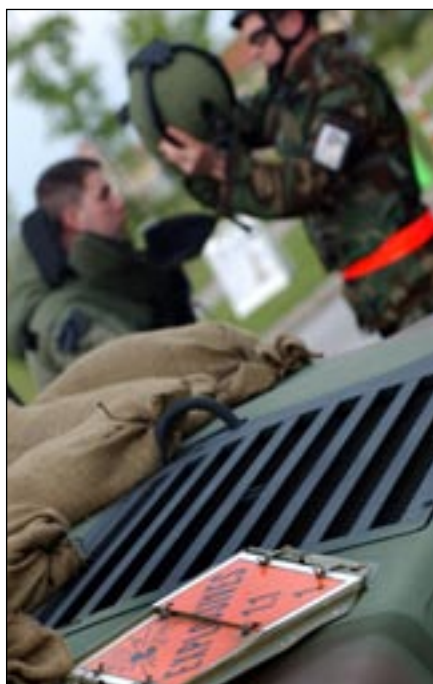


Photo by Airman 1st Class Nathan Doza

Photo by Staff Sgt. Bethann Caporaletti



Photo by Airman Liliana Moreno

Above: Staff Sgt. Michael Holzworth, 31st Communications Squadron, captures the exercise scenarios.

Left: Staff Sgts. Justin Surran and Clayton Tiemen, 31st CES, Explosives Ordnance Disposal, gear up in EOD 8 bomb suits.

Changes of command

• Lt. Col. Troy Jackson will assume command of the 603rd Air Control Squadron from Lt. Col. Jennifer Spears at 3 p.m. Tuesday at the 603rd ACS compound.

• Maj. Greg Brown will assume command of the 31st Mission Support Squadron from Lt. Col. Darrell Raynor at 9 a.m. July 10 in the La Bella Vista Club.

Financial planning

A briefing to assist spouses responsible for maintaining family finances is at 2 p.m. Thursday at the family support center. Those attending must bring a copy of their spouse's Leave and Earnings Statement.

Additionally, a seminar for beginning investors is at 2 p.m. June 29 at the family support center. The seminar will discuss the Thrift Savings Program, Roth IRAs, taxes, bonds and other ways to invest money.

PC Wars

PC Wars hosts a gaming competition from 6 p.m. Saturday to 2 a.m. Sunday

at the base exchange food court. All ages and skill levels are welcome to attend and should bring their own computer. Prizes include gift certificates, wireless cards and games.

For more information, call Airman 1st Class Jienelle Arevalo at Ext. 8455.

Instructor training

The 31st Medical Group is providing three training sessions on the new American Heart Association CPR guidelines to Aviano's Military Training Network CPR Instructors from 8 to 11 a.m. Wednesday and June 21 in Bldg. 103 in the E&T Conference room. Training is mandatory for MTN instructors to remain current. MTN instructors should call the 31st MDG Education and Training office at Ext. 5719 to schedule training.

Yard sale

The Aviano Thrift Shop is hosting a base-wide yard sale from 8 a.m. to noon June 17 in the high school multi-purpose room. To reserve a table, call the thrift

shop at Ext. 5428 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Spouse it Up

The next Spouse It Up is a luau at 11 a.m. June 21 in Area D. The Hawaiian theme event will have bouncy castles for children, food, and Hawaiian dancers. For more information, call the family support center at Ext. 5407.

Summer hires

The Summer Hire Employment Program runs from June 19 to Aug. 18 and is open to unmarried students ages 14 to 22 years old who are dependents of active duty or self-sponsored civilians employed by a government agency. Applications are available at the Civilian Personnel Flight and the Aviano school guidance counselor's office.

For more information, call Kristin Sansone at Ext. 7291.

CCAF degree

The education center hosts weekly information sessions for the Community College of the Air Force associate degree program at 9 a.m. Thursdays at the education center, Bldg. 186, Area One.

Members who want to learn more about how to earn their CCAF should plan to attend. For more information, call Ext. 5330.

WAPS location

The education center is changing its location, but the test control office is not. The test control office will remain in Bldg. 186, Room 13. For more information, call Kathrine Kosmala at Ext. 5465 or e-mail kathrine.kosmala@aviano.af.mil.

Quality of life

Some Aviano members and their spouses have been randomly selected to take the 2006 Air Force Community Assessment Survey. This voluntary survey takes about 30 minutes to complete. The survey allows

Aviano members' voices to be heard regarding community satisfaction, personal and family adaptation to the Air Force, financial stress and other quality of life issues.

Job openings

Aviano Elementary School seeks candidates for an education aide opening in the Sure Start program, and substitute teachers who qualify as nurses, speech therapists or special educators. For more information, call Rosy Zilli at Ext. 5616.

Help wanted

The Aviano Thrift Shop is now accepting applications for a part-time bookkeeper position that opens in July. For more information, call the thrift shop during business hours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays at Ext. 5428.

Air War College

The Air War College Non-resident Program is soliciting eligible officers and federal employees for the seminar program. Interested members may enroll online at <http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awc-ns.htm> by clicking on the Student Information System link.

The nonresident curriculum parallels the resident program, and emphasizes joint operations, senior leadership issues, national security strategy, regional studies, and the employment of air and space power.

The program is open to active duty, National Guard, and Reserve O-5 selectees or above, of any component of the U.S. Armed Forces, and DoD civilian employees above GS-13.

For more information, call the education center at Ext. 5330.

Movie sale

The community center is selling its VHS tapes for \$3 and DVDs for \$5, "as is," with no refunds. For more information, call Susan Lear at Ext. 5993.

Reel Times

Today, 7 p.m. - "The Sentinel" PG-13 - A secret service agent is wrongly suspected of targeting the president for assassination. While he tries to prove his innocence and find the real assassin, the secret agent is tracked by a former disciple. Starring: Michael Douglas, Kiefer Sutherland

Today, 10 p.m. - "Basic Instinct 2" Rated R - After a relocation to London, a novelist finds herself on the wrong side of the law. Starring: Sharon Stone, David Morrissey

Saturday, 7 p.m. - "ATL" Rated PG-13 - ATL tells the story of four teens coming of age in a working class Atlanta neighborhood. As the group prepares for life after high school, challenges bring turning points in their lives. Starring: Tip "T.I." Harris, Antwan "Big Boi" Patton

Saturday, 10 p.m. - "The Sentinel" PG-13

Sunday, 7 p.m. - "Slither" Rated R - A small town at first looks friendly and charming, but just beneath the surface an unnamed evil is growing. Starring: Nathan Fillion, Elizabeth Banks

Wednesday, 7 p.m. - "Basic Instinct 2" Rated R

Thursday, 7 p.m. - "The Sentinel" Rated PG-13

(Titles and times are courtesy of www.aafes.com, and are subject to change.)

Fly Bys

Upcoming festivals

- A wine and strawberries festival is Saturday and Sunday in Faedis. There will be multiple stands for tasting typical Friulano products.

- Tour the Venetian islands by bike. This is a 60-kilometer leisure excursion of the islands. For more information, visit www.aruotaliberapn.it or call 333-763-0853.

- A wine festival is Saturday and Sunday in Monfalcone. There will be stands for tasting regional specialties.

For more information on any of these events, call Ext. 7555.

Fundraiser fun day

EZ's Place Horse Rescue Shelter invites the local community to a multi-national Ranch Fest fundraiser from noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. The day's events include entertainment, games, chili-tasting, pony rides and face painting. The event costs €5 for adults and €2.50 for children.

The shelter can be found by taking the road towards Maniago/San Martino from the Aviano Industrial Area. At the traffic circle, take the Montereale Valcellina exit. After passing the bump-in-the-road sign and a small bridge, look for the Zedan Ranch sign on the left.

For more information, call 360-593-236, e-mail zedanranch@yahoo.it or log onto www.zedanranch.de.

By Senior Airman Sarah Gregory
31st Fighter Wing
Public Affairs

It may be dirty and crowded but the city of Naples is also bursting with life and excitement. Living in the shadow of the famous volcano, Mount Vesuvius, the people of Naples do everything from making pizza to zipping around on their motor scooters, with gusto.

Although it's a long drive, getting to this unique city by car is easy. Drivers can take the Autostrada toward Venice, then Florence and Naples, or to make the trip even simpler, take the train. Almost all trains to Naples stop at Stazione Centrale in Piazza Garibaldi. Visit www.trenitalia.it for train schedules and fares. One thing to keep in mind when planning your trip is the high crime rates in Naples. If driving, it's best to find a secure parking garage for your vehicle. Parking on the street can be risky and your car might not be there when you come back.

As typical with Italian cities, Naples offers many beautiful churches and museums to explore.

One of the largest and best museums there is the National Archaeological Museum.

The museum holds one



Photo by Senior Airman Sarah Gregory

Piazza Plebiscito is the largest square in Naples and is surrounded by the Teatro San Carlo, known for its opera performances.

of the world's greatest collections of Greek and Roman antiquities, including sculptures of Aphrodite and Hercules Farnese. There are also numerous pottery and household objects, as well as mosaics from the preserved cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum. The entrance fee is €6.50 and the museum is open from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Mondays. For more information on exhibits, visit www.archeona.arti.beniculturali.it.

Another tourist attraction is the Spaccanapoli area. This long main street crosses Naples and is the heart of the older section of town. Take a stroll along the street and browse in one (or 10) of its many shops. The street is

mainly a pedestrian-only zone so visitors don't have to worry about dodging traffic.

This area is also a good place to pick up some mozzarella di bufala – a local specialty.

No visit to the city would be complete without trying some true Neapolitan pizza. In the city that invented the dish, pizza is another art form. Made simply with fresh tomatoes and basil, mozzarella is usually only the extra topping. Some restaurants do offer other toppings such as ham or diavola, but you won't find the long list of options available in restaurants around Aviano.

Naples may not be a city for everyone, but it definitely deserves a visit.

Local info: Visit <http://www.turismo.veneto.it/> to find information about local exhibits, tours, workshops and restaurants.



Photo by Senior Airman Sarah Gregory

The Arena di Verona, in **Verona Italy**, hosts outdoor operas during the summer season.

Information, Tickets and Tours

Upcoming tours from the Information, Tickets and Tours office include:

- Saturday - Wine tasting in the Veneto Region and Soave Castle
- June 17 - Croatia by boat
- June 17-18 - Vienna and Danube River
- June 24 - Opera in Verona Arena

ITT escorts ensure the group arrives and departs from destinations as sched-

uled and will do everything possible to make the trip safe and comfortable. Escorts also provide general information about the area.

Please note weather conditions and dress accordingly for trips. The ITT staff recommends wearing comfortable shoes because almost all tours involve walking. Call Ext. 5072 or 5026 for more information.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Randy Mallard

Aviano Air Base Football Club's Drew Hall warms ups before a match with a local Italian team last Sunday. The Italians beat the American's 3-0 during Fontanafredda Sports Day.

AABFC kicks it in Fontanafredda



AABFC's Aaron Clark and a member of a local Italian team scramble for the ball.



AABFC and a local Italian team captains meet at mid field before the match. The teams faced each other as part of Fontanafredda Sports Day.

Golf tournament

The 2006 U.S. Air Forces in Europe Golf Championships will be held at the Alpine Golf Course, Monday to June 17.

This championship is a 54-hole stroke play tournament and is governed by PGA rules and includes the following categories:

- Men's Open
- Men's Senior (ages 30 to 39)
- Men's Master (ages 40+)
- Women's Open

- Women's Master (ages 40+)

All military ID card holders, including active duty, civilians and family members, who are at least 18 years old and out of school, are eligible to play. The top male and female golfers, regardless of division, receive an invitation to the Air Force Golf Trials, July 22 to 29 at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

For more information, call Al Hobrecht at Ext. 7386 or e-mail him at albert.hobrecht@aviano.af.mil.

Fly Bys

Volksmarch

The Aviano Road Runners are participating in a Volksmarch at 6 p.m. Saturday in San Antonio di Porcia and 8 a.m. Sunday in San Quirino. The group meets at the Bar Municipio in Roveredo before each event. For more information, call Ext. 7692 or 7404.

Sports registration

Flag football and volleyball registration is ongoing through June 20. For more information, call Shalee Torrence at Ext. 4784 or e-mail her at shalee.torrence@aviano.af.mil.

Basketball camp

A professional basketball camp for youth ages 8 to 20 is June 18 to 24 and June 25 to July 1. For more information, or to sign up, call Mike Williams at 338-439-0929.

Fun run

This month's 5K Fun Run/Walk begins at 11:30 a.m., June 23 at the Dragon Fitness Center.

Massage therapist

The Area Two Fitness Center offers massage therapy. Shawn Hamilton offers 30, 60, and 90-minute massages at the Area 2 Fitness Center. For more information or to make an appointment, call 348-364-0684.

Frisbee challenge

The 31st Maintenance Squadron Lantirn shop is issuing an ultimate frisbee challenge to any team. Teams must have at least six players and can bring substitute players. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Jason Patton at Ext. 8642 or 334-132-7506 or e-mail him at JasonPatton@DraghiCycling.com.

Officials needed

The Aviano Sports Officials Association is looking for softball officials and scorekeepers. For more information, call Bill Dellick at Ext. 8763 or Robby England at Ext. 7459.

Be free, find your moment of zen

By Lt. Col. Joe Castro
31st Civil Engineer Squadron commander

Some folks call them high risk activities, I call them stress relievers. There's nothing that relaxes me more after a tough work week than scuba diving, rock climbing or riding my motorcycle.

When I was stationed at Kadena Air Base, Japan, scuba diving was my mental relief. When I lived in California, it was rock climbing. Here at Aviano, it's been motorcycle riding.

Some may ask how anything that requires so much gear, a lot of training and know-how, and with inherent dangers, be relaxing? Some of you already know the answer, but for those unaware, it's the zen of it all. I 'Googled' zen and came up with a rough meaning – ridding yourself of attachments so one can be free.

Imagine scuba diving with 70 to 80 pounds of gear, including a 3,000 psi (pounds per square inch) tank on your back capable of becoming shrapnel. Then jumping into deep waters that increase the pressure around you one atmosphere every 33 feet. With time limits on your air, nitrogen narcosis threatening to put you in la-la land, the bends or an air embolism waiting for you if you ascend too fast, what's left to enjoy?

The dangers of rock climbing are even

easier to imagine as you dangle off a cliff with nothing to protect you but a rope and someone, hopefully capable, at the other end. Will your three points of protection hold? Will your harness keep you inside? Is the rope below its maximum number of falls?

In motorcycle riding, not only do you have to contend with the proper handling and maneuvering of your bike, but also the road conditions ahead, the cars, the weather and the sport bikes that zip past you at half an arm's length. How can you possibly relax?

Well, it's like this. After receiving certified training in each of these activities and learning how to reduce the dangers, I know that I have to concentrate on nothing else. In doing so, I momentarily forget those things I had to think about all week. My mind clears and all that lies ahead of me is open road. The movements of my bike become almost automatic to the road conditions around me. It's a zen-like high.

So what are you going to do after these rough two weeks of exercises? Some feel that there are much quicker ways to reach this zen state-of-mind through alcohol or some illicit drug. I'm here to tell you that those are false senses, and there are safer and healthier ways to get that high. Some find it in running, road biking, skiing, and even sleep.

It doesn't have to be a high risk activity, just find your moment of zen.

Recognizing The World's Finest

• Congratulations to the **555th Fighter Squadron** for receiving the 2005 U.S. Air Forces in Europe Fighter Squadron of the Year award.

• Congratulations to the following Airmen for their outstanding completion of their Career Development Courses: **Staff Sgt. Joshua Stephens**, **Airmen 1st Class Xuan Huynh** and **Jeffrey Szymanski**, 31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; **Senior Airman Philip Faltese**, 31st Maintenance Squadron; **Airman 1st Class Audrey Harmon**, 31st Medical Group; and **Staff Sgt. Corey Kalbaugh**, 31st Security Forces Squadron.

Graduates

Airman Leadership School

Congratulations to the following senior airmen and staff sergeants who graduated Aviano's Airman Leadership School May 31. ALS is the first step of Professional Military Education for the Air Force's enlisted corps. Senior airmen and staff sergeant selects must complete this 24-day course in order to obtain the title "supervisor." John Levitow Award and Leadership Award recipient: **Benjamin West**, 31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Academic Award and Distinguished Graduate recipient: **Laura Sheldon**, 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron; Distinguished Graduates: **Javelle Lane**, 31st Communications Squadron, **Jason Pratt**, 31st CS and **Laura Sheldon**, 31st LRS.

31st AMXS: **Bryon Best**, **Daniel Slaving**, **Daniel Stemkoski**, **Randi Teague**, **Manuel Vargas** and **Benjamin West**. 31st Civil Engineer Squadron: **Michael Larson** and **Dustin Record**. 31st Comptroller Squadron: **Michael Mulvihill** and **Angela Strotz**. 31st CS: **Josh Hodges**, **Javelle Lane**, **Michelle McGovern**, **Jason Pratt**, **Jeffrey Rios** and **Derris Warren**. 31st Fighter Wing: **Priscilla Perdomo** and **Colleen Wronck**. 31st LRS: **Heather Davidson**, **Juan Garcia**, **Danielle Garzona**, **Maretta Height** and **Laura Sheldon**. 31st Maintenance Operations Squadron: **Michael Truitt**. 31st Maintenance Squadron: **Terance Douglas**, **Joel Hernandez-Romero**, **Sarah Randall**, **Paul Stout** and **James Strong**. 31st Operations Squadron: **Desmond Bell**. 31st Security Forces Squadron: **Staff Sgts. Anthony Harbor** and **Rojen Richards**, **Vincent Kennedy** and **Robert Gardner**. 31st Services Squadron: **Anthony Terry**. 496th Air Base Squadron: **Michael Sementilli**. 603rd Air Control Squadron: **Zachary Hodges** and **Steven Nichols**. 712th Munitions Squadron: **Angela Bishop**. 725th Air Mobility Squadron: **Nathan Niemela** and **John Smith**. Detachment 2, Naples: **Justin Boyles**.



The Cornerstone

An indispensable and fundamental basis

The Cornerstone Page is devoted to those who support junior enlisted, NCOs, CGOs and spouses. It's to share advice, ideas and opinions dealing with life in the Air Force and Aviano. It's also a forum to recognize those around us. The Cornerstone Page will also offer Air Force trivia and facts.

Submission info: We want to hear from you. Flex your writing talents and share your thoughts with us and the community.

Commentaries: Writers can send commentaries to vigileer@aviano.af.mil. Commentaries must be 500 to 700 words. Topics must be applicable to the Air Force, Aviano and appeal to the general public. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Kudos: Aviano members can send congratulatory messages to Vigileer@aviano.af.mil. Messages can be submitted for appreciation, retirements, awards, good service, promotions and graduations. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Faxed articles will not be accepted by the staff. The public affairs office is in Bldg. 1360, Room 19.